EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT IN NEW HAMPSHIRE

A REPORT BY THE NEW HAMPSHIRE DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT SECURITY PREPARED IN COORDINATION WITH THE UNITED STATES BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS

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SUMMARY: Total employment advanced 7,170 from February to March, estimated at 435,270. Some of the increase was contributed by the farm sector in preparation for maple surgaring activities. In the nonfarm sector, gains were concentrated in construction, trade, services and government.

Unemployment rose 770 in March to 15,630. The jobless rate was 3.5 percent of the labor force compared to 3.4 percent in February and 3.1 percent a year ago. National unadjusted rates were 6.6 percent this year and 6.1 percent a year ago.

The civilian labor force was up 7,940 in March to an estimated 450,900. Half of this monthly rise was concentrated in the Dover, Laconia and Nashua labor market areas.

Consumer prices for All Urban Consumers rose 1.4 percent in March, matching the increase in January and February. The Consumer Price Index at 239.8 percent of the 1967 average was up 14.7 percent from a year earlier.

MAJOR EMPLOYMENT CHANGES: The number of employees on nonagricultural payrolls rose 3,050 in March to a level of 384,250. Payroll employment was 11,950 higher than a year earlier. Construction had the largest over-the-month increase with 1,050. Most of the increase reflects increased activity at the Seabrook Project. Manufacturing employment was down slightly in March with textiles, leather products and lumber and wood products posting the largest declines. The service industry and trade posted month to month gains. Temporary workers hired in conjunction with the presidential primary caused a rise in local government.

The nonagricultural job total rose 11,950 from March 1979. The contruction industry posted the largest gain with 3,300. Part of this reflected the Seabrook Nuclear Power Project. Gains in durable goods manufacturing of 3,050 were partially offset by 1,750 job losses in nondurable goods production resulting in a net increase of 1,300 in factory jobs. Trade and services added a total of 4,300 jobs over the year.

THIRD QUARTER 1979 PRIVATE INDUSTRY EMPLOYMENT AND WAGES: Employment covered by Unemployment Compensation in private industry averaged 328,059 in the third quarter 1979. Total wages reported by employers amounted to $896,983,714 and average weekly wages for the quarter amounted to $210.32.

New Hampshire Civilian Labor Force, Total Employment and Unemployment
and Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment
as of the Middle of the Month

Industry	Number of Workers			Numerical change from	
	March 1980	Feb. 1980	March 1979	Previous month	Previous year
1. Civilian labor force	450,900	442,960	431,110	7,940	19,790
2. Unemployment	15,630	14,860	13,240	770	2,390
Percent of labor force	3.5	3.4	3.1	XX	XX
3. Employment total	435,270	428,100	417,770	7,170	17,500
4. Persons involved in labor disputes	0	0	100	0	-100
Nonagr. wage & salary	384,250	381,200	372,300	3,050	11,950
Manufacturing	114,750	116,300	114,740	-250	1,309
Durable goods	72,250	72,250	69,200	0	3,050
Lumber & wood prods.	5,050	5,150	5,200	-100	-150
Furniture & fixtures	1,750	1,800	1,950	-50	-200
Stone & clay prods.	2,850	2,850	2,950	0	-100
Primary metal prods.	3,450	3,500	3,150	-50	300
Fabricated metal prods.	7,250	7,200	7,100	50	150
Machinery (exc. elec.)	22,300	22,200	20,600	100	1,700
Electrical prods.	19,000	19,000	18,050	0	950
Miscellaneous prods.	2,050	2,050	1,900	0	150
Other durable goods	8,550	8,500	8,300	50	250
Nondurable goods	43,800	44,050	45,500	-250	1,750
Food & kindred prods.	2,900	2,900	2,900	0	0
Textile mill prods.	4,950	5,100	5,050	-150	-100
Apparel	2,850	2,850	2,800	0	50
Paper & allied prods.	6,550	6,500	6,300	50	250
Print., pub. & allied	5,850	5,850	5,950	0	-100
Leather & lea. prods.	10,000	10,150	11,200	-150	-1,200
Other nondurable goods	10,700	10,700	11,350	0	-650
Nonmanufacturing	268,200	264,900	257,550	3,300	10,650
Construction (inc. min.)	20,500	19,450	17,200	1,050	3,300
Trans., comm. & util	13,750	13,750	13,350	0	400
Trade	83,000	82,300	80,500	700	2,500
Fin., ins. & real estate	19,500	19,500	18,400	0	1,100
Service industry & other	67,750	66,800	65,950	950	1,800
Government	63,700	63,100	62,150	600	1,550
Federal	11,650	11,550	11,350	100	300
State	17,000	16,900	16,350	100	650
Local	35,050	34,650	34,450	400	600

* By place of residence
** By place of establishment
Benchmark March 1979

Total Unemployment and Labor Force by Labor Market Area (LMA) and County

Area	Unemployment*				Civilian Labor Force		Numerical Change from previous year	
	March 1980		March 1979		March			
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	1980	1979	Unemployment	Labor Force
New Hampshire	15,630	3.5	13,240	3.1	450,900	431,110	2,390	19,790
Labor Market Area								
Berlin	950	5.2	1,260	6.9	18,320	18,180	- 310	140
Claremont	830	2.4	930	2.8	34,130	33,330	- 100	800
Concord	1,260	3.1	1,070	2.7	40,860	39,590	190	1,270
Dover	1,590	3.5	1,190	2.7	44,950	43,570	400	1,380
Keene	930	2.6	810	2.3	35,680	34,540	120	1,140
Laconia	1,430	3.7	1,130	3.0	39,080	37,600	300	1,480
Littleton	700	4.8	540	3.9	14,480	13,900	160	580
Manchester	3,210	4.0	2,590	3.4	79,350	77,220	620	2,130
Nashua	2,340	3.2	1,830	2.7	73,880	68,490	510	5,390
Portsmouth	1,420	3.1	1,070	2.6	45,800	41,410	350	4,390
N.H. - Lawrence-Haverhill SMSA**	970	4.0	820	3.5	24,370	23,280	150	1,090
County								
Belknap	780	3.9	650	3.4	19,850	19,120	130	730
Carroll	490	4.0	250	2.1	12,240	11,680	240	560
Cheshire	840	2.6	730	2.4	31,820	30,800	110	1,020
Coos	890	5.3	1,310	7.8	16,830	16,820	- 420	10
Grafton	1,020	3.2	940	3.0	32,030	31,050	80	980
Hillsborough	5,040	3.7	3,960	3.1	136,700	129,480	1,080	7,220
Merrimack	1,520	3.2	1,310	2.9	47,370	45,910	210	1,460
Rockingham	3,120	3.3	2,490	2.8	95,610	89,490	630	6,120
Strafford	1,440	3.5	1,080	2.7	40,890	39,640	360	1,250
Sullivan	490	2.8	520	3.0	17,560	17,120	- 30	440

* Based on the Bureau of Labor Statistics "43 Step Method" Handbook adjusted to the Current Population Survey estimates.

** New Hampshire portion of the Lawrence-Haverhill, Massachusetts Standard Metropolitan Statistical Area which includes Salem and six small towns.

Employment Service Activity

Item	March 1980	February 1980	October 1979 to March 1980
Total applications for employment	5,013	5,256	46,605
Total nonagricultural job openings received	2,049	1,745	11,657
Placements - job openings filled	1,240	1,040	7,277
Job openings unfilled end of month *	1,487	1,451	XXX
Placements - nonagricultural	1,240	1,040	7,277
Berlin	57	82	513
Claremont	70	55	395
Concord	219	72	726
Dover	136	111	733
Keene	87	97	580
Laconia	106	88	556
Littleton	55	49	319
Manchester	180	192	1,351
Nashua	151	109	896
Portsmouth	179	185	1,208

* Includes part-time, seasonal and other openings

At the end of March, the number of active registered applicants on file at New Hampshire Job Service Offices was 18,221 of which 5,013 were new applicants and renewals. Thirty-three percent of the active file were female while 19 percent and 21 percent of the active file were under 22 and over 45 years of age respectively. Approximately 15 percent of the active applicants were economically disadvantaged. By highest school grade completed, 67 percent of the applicants had 12 or more years of formal education or its equivalent. Veterans comprised 22 percent of the active applicants with 41 percent of these from the Vietnam War Era.

Counseling services at 510 increased by 63 or 14 percent from February but decreased by 27 percent from a year ago. Job development contacts at 921 increased by 3 from last month and decreased by 3 percent from a year ago. Job Service personnel made five job referrals for each placement recorded. Activity in job placements increased over the year in Concord, Dover, and Laconia local offices with Concord having the highest number of placements due to the opening of a new shopping center.

Nonagricultural employer visits increased 44 percent from last month to 379 during March. From a year ago, these visits decreased by 296 or 44 percent. Visits to major market employers were up 66 percent from the previous month and gained 7.2 percent from a year ago leveling off at 149 in March 1980.

Weekly Claims Filed During the Month
Classified by Local Office

Area	Unemployment Compensation		U.C. Federal Employees No UI		U.C. State Workers (Only)		Servicemen UCX (Only)	
	Init.	Cont.	Init.	Cont.	Init.	Cont.	Init.	Cont.
All offices	5,304	30,399	39	172	17	66	108	710
Berlin	484	2,533	1	13	1		6	50
Claremont	199	1,456	2	9	5	2	5	46
Concord	317	2,927		6		21	5	40
Dover	1,000	4,264	16	59	2	4	24	156
Keene	254	1,794	1	6	2	11	7	58
Laconia	426	3,536	1	12	4	25	13	83
Littleton	277	1,594		9		1	4	30
Manchester	1,189	6,743	6	31	1	2	16	100
Nashua	450	2,662	1	8			8	61
Portsmouth	708	2,890	11	19	2		20	86
Not included above:								
Liable Interstate	310	2,449	4	10			4	4
Local Government	24	83						

The average payment for a week of total unemployment in March amounted to $86.35.

Insured Unemployed by Industry

Industry	February 1980	February 1979	Percent change
Total - all industries	7,476	6,038	23.8
Manufacturing	2,021	1,618	24.9
Durable goods	754	675	11.7
Electrical products	144	92	56.5
Machinery	74	104	- 28.8
Lumber & wood pds.	121	237	- 48.9
All other durable	415	510	- 18.6
Nondurable goods	1,267	943	34.4
Leather & lea. pds.	600	493	21.7
Textiles	123	58	112.1
Paper & paper prods.	30	46	- 34.8
Printing & allied	57	56	1.8
Apparel	45	121	- 62.8
Rubber & plastic pds.	365	96	280.2
Other nondurable	47	73	- 35.6
Nonmanufacturing	5,455	4,420	23.4
Construction	3,142	2,720	15.5
Trade	969	712	36.1
Services	823	658	25.1
All other nonmfg.	521	330	57.9

The number of insured unemployed decreased 610 or 7.5 percent from January. Major decreases were 255 in manufacturing and 225 in services. Recalls and openings of race track and ski operations were factors. Insured unemployment increased 1,438 or 23.8 percent from February 1979. Thirty - two percent of the insured unemployed were out of work 1 - 4 weeks duration and another 56 percent were out of work 5 - 14 weeks. Sixty-nine percent were under age 45. Females accounted for 28 percent of the insured unemployed. Structual led all occupational categories with 2,515 or 34 percent.

Fund Balance: There was $ 78,106,228.62 in the Unemployment Compensation Fund at the end of February. Net contributions amounted to $ 2,211,825.69 and net benefits paid during the month amounted to $ 3,189,978.62.

Labor Turnover Rates Per 100 Employees

Industry	Accession Rates						Separation Rates								
	Total			New Hires			Total			Quits			Layoffs		
	Feb. 1980	Jan. 1980	Feb. 1979	Feb. 1980	Jan. 1980	Feb. 1979	Feb. 1980	Jan. 1980	Feb. 1979	Feb. 1980	Jan. 1980	Feb. 1979	Feb. 1980	Jan. 1980	Feb. 1979
Manufacturing	4.2	5.3	5.0	3.3	3.8	4.3	4.8	5.4	5.5	2.7	2.9	3.2	1.2	1.6	1.4
Durable goods	3.4	3.8	4.6	3.0	3.3	4.1	3.4	3.7	3.9	2.3	2.4	2.7	0.4	0.5	0.4
Lmbr. & wood pds.															
Furn. & fixtures	4.6	6.6	3.2	4.3	5.8	2.3	7.0	3.7	3.8	3.9	2.0	2.8	1.6	0.4	0.4
Stone & clay pds.	3.8	3.7	7.3	2.4	2.6	6.5	4.3	6.2	5.8	2.7	3.6	4.5	1.2	1.9	0.8
Prim. metal pds.	2.6	5.1	7.0	2.6	4.8	5.2	2.9	3.0	2.4	1.9	2.1	1.5	0.2	0.2	0.3
Fab. metal pds.	4.1	2.6	5.3	3.6	2.3	4.5	3.4	5.3	4.8	2.4	3.2	2.9	0.4	1.5	0.7
Electrical pds.	4.0	4.0	4.6	3.6	3.4	4.3	4.1	3.9	4.2	3.0	2.5	3.5	0.3	0.7	0.1
Misc. prods.	6.3	8.6	9.8	5.6	7.6	8.3	6.4	6.9	7.1	5.0	5.0	5.2	*	0.4	*
Mach. & other	2.4	2.9	3.3	2.1	2.6	3.1	2.3	2.6	2.5	1.4	1.8	1.7	0.1	0.1	0.1
Nondurable goods	5.5	7.9	5.7	3.8	4.9	4.5	7.0	8.1	8.0	3.4	3.7	4.0	2.6	3.3	2.9
Food & kindred	3.5	5.9	7.5	3.0	5.8	5.9	4.0	5.6	5.0	3.2	4.6	3.6	0.4	0.3	1.0
Textile mill pds.,															
Apparel	5.5	11.4	5.4	4.9	6.8	4.0	7.1	7.1	6.8	3.8	4.0	3.8	1.6	1.0	1.7
Paper & allied	1.2	1.8	1.9	1.0	1.1	1.8	1.7	1.8	2.1	0.7	0.7	1.5	0.6	0.4	*
Prt.pub.&allied															
Lea. & lea. pds.	7.7	10.5	7.4	7.3	9.2	5.9	12.1	9.2	11.7	6.1	6.5	6.8	4.7	1.5	3.8
Lea. tan & fin.	3.6	4.1	3.4	3.6	4.1	2.6	2.5	3.0	9.8	1.4	2.3	3.0	*	*	5.9
Footwear	8.6	12.3	7.9	8.0	10.6	6.2	14.4	10.6	11.5	6.5	7.4	6.5	6.5	1.9	3.8
Other nondurable	7.5	7.9	6.1	2.1	1.9	4.9	7.0	13.2	10.6	2.4	2.9	3.5	3.8	9.6	5.6

* Less than 0.05 rate.

The above data on turnover rates are a weighted series based on reports from 312 cooperating establishments representing 62 percent of the total manufacturing employment in the week including February 12, 1980. Accessions and separation are reported for the entire month.

Both the accession and separation rates declined from the January rates with the rate of accession falling more than the rate of separations as some manufacturing firms began to experience fluctuations in their workload requirements. Separations exceed accessions for all manufacturing as nondurable goods industries followed this pattern whereas accessions and separations were at the same rate in durable goods industries.

The separation rate of 14.4 per 100 workers in leather products reflects the closing of one establishment in the Manchester area in February.

All turnover activities in February 1980 are lower than the year ago rates.

Average Earnings and Hours of Production Workers
in Manufacturing Industries of New Hampshire

Industry	Average weekly earnings			Average weekly hours			Average hourly earnings		
	Mar. 1980	Feb. 1980	Mar. 1979	Mar. 1980	Feb. 1980	Mar. 1979	Mar. 1980	Feb. 1980	Mar. 1979
All manufacturing	$223.97	$224.64	$213.56	39.5	39.9	40.6	$5.67	$5.63	$5.26
Durable goods	230.17	231.83	220.83	40.1	40.6	41.2	5.74	5.71	5.36
Lumber & wood pds.	184.25	192.84	187.40	35.5	37.3	38.8	5.19	5.17	4.83
Furniture & fixtures	193.60	200.33	192.38	40.0	40.8	40.5	4.84	4.91	4.75
Stone & clay pds.	241.40	242.95	226.32	40.1	40.9	41.3	6.02	5.94	5.48
Primary metal pds.	255.34	262.41	235.21	44.1	45.4	43.8	5.79	5.78	5.37
Fab. metal prods.	221.80	223.16	219.03	40.4	40.5	41.8	5.49	5.51	5.24
Mach. (exc. elec.)	256.70	256.28	243.38	42.5	43.0	43.0	6.04	5.96	5.66
Electrical prods.	218.66	221.48	208.03	38.7	39.2	39.7	5.65	5.65	5.24
Miscellaneous pds.	175.01	180.89	169.88	37.8	38.9	37.5	4.63	4.65	4.53
Other durable	239.29	237.55	233.19	39.1	39.2	41.2	6.12	6.06	5.66
Nondurable goods	214.79	213.79	204.29	38.7	38.8	39.9	5.55	5.51	5.12
Food & kindred pds.	285.11	288.15	276.71	40.1	41.7	42.9	7.11	6.91	6.45
Textile mill prods.	185.96	189.15	181.56	38.5	39.0	40.8	4.83	4.85	4.45
Apparel	151.66	151.56	153.82	35.6	36.0	37.7	4.26	4.21	4.08
Paper & allied pds.	305.58	308.88	286.58	46.3	46.8	46.0	6.60	6.60	6.23
Print.,pub. & allied	244.77	232.37	237.94	39.1	38.6	39.2	6.26	6.02	6.07
Leather & lea. prods.	157.40	159.38	148.01	34.9	34.8	36.1	4.51	4.58	4.10
Lea. tan. & fin.	261.44	262.26	230.01	42.1	42.3	41.0	6.21	6.20	5.61
Footwear	148.26	150.92	139.55	34.4	34.3	35.6	4.31	4.40	3.92
Other nondurable	224.65	224.26	216.93	38.6	38.8	40.7	5.82	5.78	5.33

The above data on hours and earnings are a weighted series based on reports from 385 cooperating establishments representing 66 percent of an estimated 85,410 production workers who worked or received pay for any part of the pay period including March 12, 1980. Persons on unpaid leave or vacation without pay are excluded.

Note: Data for March are on a preliminary basis.

Factory Hours and Earnings

Average hourly earnings increased by four cents an hour from February to March. Durable goods industries had a three cents an hour gain and nondurable goods industries had a four cents an hour gain.

The average workweek decreased by 0.4 hours dropping to 39.5 hours as some firms reduced their workweek with a decline in workload requirements. Most of the decrease occurred in durable goods industries which dropped from 40.6 hours in February to 40.1 hours in mid-March.

Average weekly earnings declined slightly as the shorter workweek affected the average despite the four cents an hour increase in average hourly earnings. Durable goods had a decrease of $1.66 in weekly earnings whereas nondurable goods workers averaged a gain of $1.00 in weekly earnings.

Year ago comparison reflected a gain of forty-one cents in average hourly earnings, a loss of 1.1 hours in average weekly hours and a gain of $10.41 in average weekly earnings.

U.S. Consumer Price Index - 1967=100

Item	1980	1979	1978	1977	1976
Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers					
Revised Index					
Current month - March	239.9				
Percent in 12 months	14.6				
Year Average		217.7	195.3	181.5	170.5
Percent increase each year		11.5	7.6	6.5	5.8
All Urban Consumers					
New Index					
Current month - March	239.8				
Percent in 12 months	14.7				
Year average		217.4	195.4		
Percent increase each year		11.3	7.7		

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